

WEM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1942

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my fourth annual report as your Medical Officer of Health. They have all been compiled under the restrictions and limitations imposed as a result of the war and as for previous reports the Minister of Health has directed that it should be prepared on the same lines, that is that it should be an interim report and confined to essential and urgent matters which have affected the public health during the year also, figures of population or figures from which local populations can be reconstructed must not be published, so the report must of necessity be deprived of much of its interest and information.

Arrangements are to be made for the preservation of all records which cannot be included in this report.

Your obedient servant,

L. WILSON EVANS.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Name.	Qualifications.	Office Held.	Whole or part time.
L. Wilson Evans	M.B., B.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health.	Part.
F. Morcom	M.I.S.E., C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.	Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor.	Whole

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Birth Rate per 1000 population	18.1
Wem Rural District	17.3
England and Wales	15.8
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1000 births	67
Wem Rural District	32
England and Wales	49
Still births per 1000 civilian population	.88
Wem Rural District	.03
England and Wales	.54
Death Rate per 1000 civilian population	12.9
Wem Rural District	9.8
England and Wales	11.4

Deaths from Diphtheria	Nil.
Deaths from Measles	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years	1
Maternal Deaths	Nil.

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH.

Heart Disease	10
Cancer	4
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	3
Violence	3

The state of health as indicated by the vital statistics is on the whole favourable.

As is the case for the whole Country there was an increase in births giving a birth rate considerably higher than that for England and Wales and the highest recorded for the Town. The number of deaths showed a marked decrease so that while last year the births balanced the deaths this year the excess of births over deaths gives a natural increase in the population of 15.

There were no deaths from any of the infectious diseases and no maternal deaths for the second consecutive year. Deaths from Cancer showed a marked reduction on previous years.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Disease	Total.	Number removed to Isolation Hospital.	Deaths.
Erysipelas	2	1	-
Ophthalmia			
Neonatorum	1	1	-
Pneumonia	6		-
Puerperal			
Pyrexia	1	1	-
Whooping Cough	2		
Scarlet Fever	3	2	-

There were no cases of Diphtheria or Measles notified during the year which was quite a good one as regards infectious disease. It is satisfactory to note that there were no deaths from Pneumonia.

Immunisation against Diphtheria made good progress especially among the younger children as the following figures show. The County Council took over the immunisation of all children up to school leaving age in November.

3.

Under 5 years of age.	5-15 years of age.
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Number of children who completed full course of immunisation between January 1st and December 31st, 1942	57	118
Percentage of child population considered to be immunised at December 31st, 1942.	50%	88%
Number of cases of Diphtheria notified during the year	Nil.	

Tuberculosis.

Respiratory.				Non-respiratory.			
New cases.		Deaths.		New cases.		Deaths.	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	1	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

No case of Respiratory Tuberculosis has been notified over a period of four years and only one death in 5 years. This absence of new cases in the Town is reason for satisfaction especially as an increase in Tuberculosis has been noted in other parts of the Country. There is the same cause for satisfaction as regards non-respiratory tuberculosis which has shown an increase in recent years. There is an additional causation factor in this form of the disease to be found in infection of milk through cows infected with tuberculosis and there is evidence that the steps taken to improve the milk supply are not sufficient to prevent this infection and the only immediate practical method of making milk safe is pasteurisation.

During the year following on the report of the Committee dealing with "Tuberculosis" in War Time the Minister of Health has brought forward measures to attack pulmonary tuberculosis. Two of the most important of these is the use of mass miniature X-rays which will enable many cases of the disease to be discovered in the early stages and so greatly increase the chance of cure and prevent cases getting to the infectious stage and the financial allowance to cases of pulmonary tuberculosis under treatment and their dependents. This by enabling many patients to give up work to undergo treatment who would otherwise carry on until the chance of recovery was seriously jeopardised and by relieving patients of anxiety as to the wellbeing

of their families by providing them with proper food and clothing and thus reducing the risk of them falling victims to the disease are momentous steps towards the eradication and destruction of a disease which above all is the scourge of young people.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Milk.

No. of producer of undesignated milk on register. 10

No. of inspections made. 2

No. of defects found. Nil

No. of T.T.Milk Sellers 1

No. of T.T.Certified milk sellers. Nil.

No. of pasteurised milk sellers. Nil.

No. of accredited milk sellers. Nil.

No. of inspections. Nil.

No sample of Milk was taken.

Very few inspections of cowsheds were made but all cowsheds were inspected in November of the previous year. The particulars given for milk sellers refer to retail milk sellers.

No complaints were received concerning the quality of the milk sold.

Housing.

One case of overcrowding was abated by the Council giving the occupier the tenancy of a Council House. No other specific case of overcrowding came to my notice. In general it seems that the smaller houses are occupied to maximum capacity through evacuation and lodgers working on public works in and round Wem.

Water Supply.

With a few exceptions the whole of the district is supplied by the Council. The supply was satisfactory in quantity and quality and is chlorinated at the pumping station. The chlorination plant consists of a Candy Minor pump and accessories.

